

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Chewing gum comprising at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer obtained by the polymerization of two or more cyclic esters by ring-opening said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer having a molecular weight of less than 150000 g/mol (Mn) and said chewing gum further comprising chewing gum ingredients, wherein the chewing gum is substantially free of non-biodegradable polymers.
2. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer having a molecular weight of less than 150000 g/mol (Mn) results in an improved initial release in the resulting chewing gum.
3. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said at least one biodegradable polymer has a molecular weight of less than 125000 g/mol (Mn).
4. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer has a molecular weight of less than 10000 g/mol (Mn).
5. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer has a molecular weight of less than 6000 g/mol Mn (Mn).
6. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum comprises at least two different biodegradable polyester copolymers.
7. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise flavoring agents.
8. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said flavoring

agents comprise natural and synthetic flavorings in the form of natural vegetable components, essential oils, essences, extracts, powders; including acids ~~or other substances~~ capable of affecting the taste profile.

9. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 7, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in the amount of 0.01 to about 30 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum

10. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 7, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in an amount of 0.2 to about 4 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum.

11. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 7, wherein said flavoring agents comprises water soluble ingredients.

12. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 11, wherein said water soluble ingredients ~~flavoring agents~~ comprise acids.

13. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 7, wherein said flavoring agents comprises water insoluble ingredients.

14. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise sweeteners.

15. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 14, wherein said sweeteners comprise[s] bulk sweeteners.

16. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 15, wherein the chewing gum comprises bulk sweeteners in an amount of about 5 to about 95% by weight of the chewing gum.

17. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 14, wherein said sweeteners comprise[s] high intensity sweeteners

18. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 17, wherein the high intensity sweeteners comprise sucralose, aspartame, salts of acesulfame[,] or alitame, saccharin and its salts, cyclamic acid and its salts, glycyrrhizin, dihydrochalcones, thaumatin, monellin, sterioside, alone or in combination.

19. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 17, wherein the chewing gum comprises high intensity sweeteners in an amount of ~~about 0 to~~ less than about 1% by weight of the chewing gum.

20. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one softener.

21. (canceled)

22. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise active ingredients.

23. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 22, wherein said active ingredients are selected from the group consisting of: Acetaminophen, Acetylsalicylic acid, Buprenorphine, Bromhexin, Celcoxib, Codeine, Diphenhydramin, Diclofenac, Etoricoxib, Ibuprofen, Indometacin, Ketoprofen, Lumiracoxib, Morphine, Naproxen, Oxycodon, Parecoxib, Piroxicam, Rofecoxib, Tenoxicam, Tramadol, Valdecoxib, Calciumcarbonat, Magaldrate, Disulfiram, Bupropion, Nicotine, Azithromycin, Clarithromycin, Clotrimazole, Erythromycin, Tetracycline, Granisetron, Ondansetron, Prometazin, Tropisetron, Brompheniramine, Ceterizin, Ieco-Ceterizin, Chlorcyclizine, Chlorpheniramin, Chlorpheniramin, Difenhydramine, Doxylamine, Fenofenadin, Guaifenesin, Loratidin, des-Loratidin, Phenyltoloxamine, Promethazin, Pyridamine, Terfenadin, Troxerutin, Methyldopa, Methylphenidate, Benzalcon Chloride, Benzeth. Chloride, Cetylpyrid. Chloride, Chlorhexidine, Ecabet-sodium, Haloperidol, Allopurinol, Colchicine, Theophylline, Propanolol, Prednisolone, Prednisone, Fluoride, Urea, Miconazole, Actot, Glibenclamide, Glipizide, Metformin, Miglitol, Repaglinide, Rosiglitazone, Apomorfine, Cialis, Sildenafil, Vardenafil, Diphenoxylate,

Simethicone, Cimetidine, Famotidine, Ranitidine, Ratinidine, cetirizin, Loratadine, Aspirin, Benzocaine, Dextrometorphan, Ephedrine, Phenylpropanolamine, Pseudoephedrine, Cisapride, Domperidone, Metoclopramide, Acyclovir, Dioctylsulfosucc, Phenolphthalein, Almotriptan, Eletriptan, Ergotamine, Migea, Naratriptan, Rizatriptan, Sumatriptan, Zolmitriptan, Aluminium salts, Calcium salts, Ferro salts, Silver salts, Zinc-salte, Amphotericin B, Chlorhexidine, Miconazole, Triamcinolonacetamid, Melatonine, Phenobarbitol, Caffeine, Benzodiazepiner, Hydroxyzine, Meprobamate, Phenothiazine, Buclizine, Brometazine, Cinnarizine, Cyclizine, Difenhydramine, Dimenhydrinate, Buflomedil, Amphetamine, Caffeine, Ephedrine, Orlistat, Phenylephedrine, Phenylpropanolamin, Pseudoephedrine, Sibutramin, Ketoconazole, Nitroglycerin, Nystatin, Progesterone, Testosterone, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin A, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Pilocarpin, Aluminiumaminoacetat, Cimetidine, Esomeprazole, Famotidine, Lansoprazole, Magnesium oxide, Nizatide and or Ratinidine or derivatives and mixtures thereof.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the at least two or[e] more cyclic esters are selected from the groups consisting of glycolides, lactides, lactones, cyclic carbonates and mixtures thereof.

26. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25, wherein the lactones ~~monomers~~ are chosen from the group consisting of ϵ -caprolactone, δ -valerolactone, γ -butyrolactone, β -propiolactone, and mixtures thereof; and wherein the lactone monomers are optionally substituted with one or more alkyl or aryl substituents at any non-carbonyl carbon atoms along the ring, including compounds in which two substituents are contained on the same carbon atom.

27. (canceled)

28. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler.

29. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 28, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler in an amount of about 0 to about 50% by weight of the chewing gum.

30. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one coloring agent.

31. – 35. (Canceled).

36. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum comprises said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer forming an elastomer of the chewing gum and at least one non-biodegradable conventional natural or synthetic resin.

37. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum comprises at least one biodegradable elastomer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum, at least one biodegradable plasticizer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum and at least one chewing gum ingredient chosen from the groups consisting of softeners, sweeteners, flavoring agents, active ingredients and fillers in the amount of about 2 to about 80% wt of the chewing gum.

38. (Currently amended) Gum base comprising ~~the at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer of claim 1,~~ at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer obtained by the polymerization of two or more cyclic esters by ring-opening, said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer having a molecular weight of less than 150000 g/mol, wherein the gum base is substantially free of non-biodegradable polymers.

39. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 20, wherein the at least one softener comprises tallow, hydrogenated tallow, hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, cocoa butter, glycerol monostearate, glycerol triacetate, lecithin, mono-, di- and triglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, fatty acids, stearic

acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, or mixtures thereof.

40. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to claim 39, wherein the chewing gum comprises softeners in an amount of ~~about 0 to~~ less than about 18% by weight of the chewing gum.

41. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25, wherein the cyclic carbonates monomer is ~~are~~ selected from the group consisting of trimethylene carbonate, 5-alkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, 5,5-dialkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, ~~or~~ 5-alkyl-5-alkyloxycarbonyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, ethylene carbonate, 3-ethyl-3-hydroxymethyl, propylene carbonate, trimethylolpropane monocarbonate, 4,6dimethyl-1,3-propylene carbonate, 2,2-dimethyl trimethylene carbonate, 1,3-dioxepan-2-one and mixtures thereof.

42. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the polyester copolymers and their copolymers resulting from the polymerization of cyclic ester monomers are selected from the group consisting of poly (L-lactide); poly (D-lactide); poly (D, L-lactide); poly (mesolactide); poly (glycolide); poly (trimethylenecarbonate); poly (epsilon-caprolactone); poly (L lactide-co-D, L-lactide); poly (L-lactide-co-meso-lactide); poly (L-lactide co-glycolide); poly (L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate); poly (L-lactide co-epsilon-caprolactone); poly (D, L-lactide-co-meso-lactide); poly (D, L lactide-co-glycolide); poly (D, L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) poly (D, L-lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); poly (meso-lactide-co glycolide); poly (meso-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate); poly (meso lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); poly (glycolide-cotrimethylenecarbonate); poly (glycolide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); and mixtures thereof.